

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

Morgan Fuller,  
  
Plaintiff

v.

Clark County,  
  
Defendant

Case No.: 2:20-cv-00020-APG-EJY

**Dismissal Order**

This action began with a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by Morgan Fuller, a former state prisoner. On March 4, 2021, Magistrate Judge Youchah ordered Fuller to file his updated address with this court by March 31, 2021. ECF No. 3. The deadline has now expired, and Fuller has not filed his updated address or otherwise responded to the order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (affirming dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (affirming

1 dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424  
2 (9th Cir. 1986) (affirming dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local  
3 rules).

4 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a  
5 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, I must consider several factors: (1) the public's  
6 interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the  
7 risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their  
8 merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *See Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831;  
9 *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61;  
10 *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

11 Here, the first two factors (the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation  
12 and the court's interest in managing the docket) weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor  
13 (risk of prejudice to the defendants) also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of  
14 injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court  
15 or prosecuting an action. *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The  
16 fourth factor (public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits) is greatly outweighed  
17 by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his  
18 failure to obey the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of  
19 alternatives" requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*,  
20 779 F.2d at 1424. Judge Youchah's order expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that  
21 failure to comply with this Order may result in a recommendation to dismiss this case with  
22 prejudice." ECF No. 3. Thus, Fuller had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his  
23 noncompliance with the court's order to file his updated address by March 31, 2021.

1 I order that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on Fuller's failure to file an  
2 updated address in compliance with the March 4, 2021 order.

3 I order the Clerk of Court to close the case and enter judgment accordingly.

4 Dated: April 5, 2021



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U.S. District Judge